



# International Medical Health Organization (IMHO)

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## In This Issue

[2013 Mid-Year Convention & Music Night in Ohio: October 5th](#)

[Update on Efforts in Sri Lanka](#)

[Ethiopia Volunteer Service Trip 2013 Another Grand Success](#)

[Jaffna Medical Association \(JMA\) Updates](#)

## Quick Links: Recent Reports

[Jaffna Medical Association \(JMA\) Newsletter: June 2013](#)

[Jaffna Medical Association \(JMA\) Newsletter: March 2013](#)

[2012 Annual Souvenir Program](#)

[IMHO Annual Update: Leading the Way Forward](#)

[Return to our Roots: Full IMHO Overview](#)

[Cancer Care at Batticaloa Hospital](#)

[Let Us Not Forget: Societal Evolution in Sri Lanka](#)

[Mental Health Development Efforts in Sri Lanka & Ethiopia](#)

[Women's Health Issues & Current Needs](#)

[Rebuilding Haiti: Serving the Health and Education Needs in Petit-Goave](#)

[Pediatric Services in Jaffna and Need for a NICU Unit](#)

[Rebuilding Livelihoods in Sri Lanka: An Appeal](#)

[Profiles of War-Affected Families in Sri Lanka](#)

[Education and Empowerment of Deaf Youth in Ethiopia](#)

[In Service of Humanity: Global Outreach of IMHO](#)

[All Previous IMHO e-Newsletters](#)

## IMHO Midyear Convention



**Pragathi Guruprasad**

Playback Singer & Super Singer Junior finalist



**Ravi Gopinath**

Playback Singer & Super Singer finalist



**Anush G. Shandilya**

Hariyudan Naan & Ragamalika contestant



**Roshini**

Playback Singer



**Magisha Baheerathan**

Super Singer Junior Contestant

## Join us in Ohio for our 2013 IMHO Mid-Year Convention & Music Night!

**WHEN:** Saturday, October 5th, 2013 from 2:30-11:00pm

**WHERE:** Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center, 100 West Dublin-Granville Rd., New Albany, Ohio 43054

**TICKETS:** Various ticket types are available for the "Music Night": \$100, \$50, \$25, \$15, and \$10 (Students/Children). [Buy your tix HERE!](#)

**CONTACT:** For tickets and other inquiries, please contact any of the following: Mallikha Samuel ([614.395.0997](tel:614.395.0997)), Murali Ramalingam ([614.659.9922](tel:614.659.9922)), or email us at [contact@theimho.org](mailto:contact@theimho.org)

Please join us for our upcoming IMHO Mid-Year Convention & Music Night to be held this October 5th in the Columbus, OH area. This event will feature guest speakers from Sri Lanka and IMHO's Board of Directors to present on IMHO's current and future projects in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka, followed by an evening of music and dance performances. Performers include Pragathi Guruprasad, Ravi Gopinath, and Mahisha Baheerathan of Super Singer fame, as well as Anush G. Shandilya of Hari Yudan Naan and Roshini of Playback Singers. To download the event flyer, please click [HERE](#) or visit the event listing on our website [HERE](#).

Make sure not to miss this exciting event! All proceeds from this event will go towards the establishment of an autism center in Northern Sri Lanka and the auto rickshaw livelihoods empowerment project for paraplegics. To-date, 18 of the 40+ intended paraplegic beneficiaries have already received a three-wheeler through this endeavor. Funds are urgently needed to provide three-wheelers to the remaining paraplegics who face immense ongoing hardship with regard to transportation and livelihoods, amongst other challenges.

### Event Schedule:

2:30 Presentations by IMHO and visiting guests  
5:30 pm - Social Hour - Sri Lankan dinner available for purchase  
7:00 pm - "Music Night" concert Event Flyer

### Hotel Info & Rates:

As the event is being held nearby, IMHO has arranged for a special nightly rate of just \$119 (use group code: "IMHO" when calling and making your reservation) at the Courtyard Marriott (5211 Forest Drive New Albany, OH 43054). Please make your reservations by calling ([614](tel:614.855.1505)) 855-1505.

## IMHO Progress Update on Sri Lanka Efforts

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GuideStar!



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On July 18th the newly renovated female orthopaedic ward at the Kurunegala Teaching Hospital in Sri Lanka was reopened, thanks to support from IMHO. Developing the capacity of local hospitals, clinics, and other healthcare providers has become a staple of our organization over the year. In this regard, IMHO frequently provides support to help develop and renovate existing infrastructure in order to improve efficiency, quality of care, and the overall capacity of these institutions to treat more patients.

Additionally, a rice grinding machine was donated to the Ozanam Centre for Those That Need Special Care in Batticaloa to assist with income generation for the facility. This center looks after the special needs of 30 children, 10 adult girls, and 12 daycare students with special needs, such as autism, Downs Syndrome, physical disabilities, and learning disabilities. With the help of IMHO, the center has now started poultry and rice powder production activities for income generation, gradually making the center's operations self-sustaining.

In August, IMHO sponsored a Staff Capacity-Building training program at the Kalmunai Mental Health Unit in Eastern Sri Lanka in which 13 psychiatric social workers and 5 therapists attached to the Kalmunai Base Hospital Rehabilitation Unit, 2 staff attached to the Palamunai Rehabilitation Unit, and 1 staff attached to the St. Benedict Brothers of Charity Rehabilitation Center gained important training and skills development. Education and training of local doctors, nurses, health care workers, and others committed to improving the health and well-being of those in need is crucial to the success of all projects.

Finally, during a visit by our IMHO USA Secretary last month, 14 motorbikes were handed over to regional health officials in Batticaloa, Eastern Sri Lanka to support psychiatric social workers & staff for the benefit of mental health patients in remote areas in that region. As transportation is often one of the biggest factors prohibiting those in need from accessing care, these motorbikes help to fill that gap. Just one more example of a small intervention with a huge impact!



**Ethiopia "Deaf Education & Empowerment"  
Service Trip this Summer Impacts Hundreds**

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Website Popular  
Pages**

[Homepage](#)

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With 12 volunteers joining us from across the U.S., the IMHO "Ethiopia Deaf Education & Empowerment" service trip this summer was a great success! Volunteers shared our skills in education, craft, community organizing, planning and sports, directly touching the lives of more than 200 deaf children and adults during our two-week program.

The volunteer group this year included students, graduate students, and professionals in Deaf Education, Special Education, Speech & Language Pathology, Planning and Organizational Development, Community Organizing, ASL Interpreting, Cognitive Neuroscience and Medicine. Upon arrival in Addis Ababa, the team spent several days in the capital city meeting with members of the Deaf Development and Information Association (DDIA), students and faculty at Addis Ababa University, and other deaf leaders and professionals. DDIA is a deaf community-based organization that works to provide adult education, informational services, and advocacy for Deaf people in Ethiopia and is our main local partner for year-round efforts to provide educational opportunities and support to the deaf community. The IMHO volunteers coordinated and ran four half-day workshops at Addis Ababa University for more than 100 participants from across all walks of life. The workshops covered topics such as community organizing, goal setting, teaching and educational topics, interpreting, and "deafhood". The feedback received was exceptionally positive, and our university partners requested more volunteer teams return in the future to conduct additional sessions.

Our volunteer group of 12 Americans and 4 Ethiopians then embarked on the central work of the trip, conducting a week-long summer camp for deaf children and young adults at Yekatit School 23 in Bahir Dar in the Amhara Region of NW Ethiopia. The troupe of Ethiopian deaf participants grew from around 32 youth last year to 56 this time around. Ages of the participants ranged from 6 to 27, and the educational experience as well as language capabilities were as varied as the participants. Volunteers conducted activities for the youth ranging from art, crafts, puzzles, games, and sports to quiet reading and storytelling in sign language. The highlight of the day camp sessions was a day-long field trip from Bahir Dar to Gondar, the old capital of Ethiopia and home to some of Ethiopia's most important historical sites. After a tour of the old castles, an exchange and lunch were organized with another school for deaf children in Gondar.

Overall, the trip was a grand success and made a positive impact on the lives of hundreds of deaf youth and adults in Ethiopia, providing them all with opportunities and resources that are exceedingly rare. And our volunteer team returned home deeply motivated, inspired, and ready to keep forging the way forward for deaf empowerment in Ethiopia! For more information on this volunteer trip or IMHO's efforts in Ethiopia in general, please feel free to contact Greg Buie at [coordinator@theimho.org](mailto:coordinator@theimho.org) or Dr. Betsy Finigan at [finiganbetsy@gmail.com](mailto:finiganbetsy@gmail.com).

### **Jaffna Medical Association Newsletter & Upcoming Scientific Sessions**

Formed in 1941 for the advancement of medical knowledge in Northern part of then Ceylon, the Jaffna Medical Association is an academic body made up of doctors. The JMA's aim has been to set and maintain standards in medicine through the dissemination of information and through educational activities. These have included lectures for doctors and students, conducting seminars, etc., the highlight of which has been the annual Scientific Sessions at which research papers and orations are presented. The next installment of the JMA Scientific Sessions is happening this September 27th-29th. The JMA's states its main aims as:

1. To safe guard and maintain the honour and interest of the Medical Profession.
2. To promote the advancement of medical and allied sciences and to propagate information and diffuse knowledge regarding these sciences and the studies by means of lectures, demonstrations, discussions, literature or such other means.

3. To consider matters pertaining to medicine in all its aspects thereof and to promote the interests, welfare, rights, and privileges of the members and to discharge and perform such functions and duties as may be conferred or imposed upon the association or any committee appointed thereof.

The Jaffna Medical Association has been publishing regular newsletters of its activities and relevant research and studies publications, all of which are available on our website here: [IMHO Field Reports](#). And for more info on JMA, please visit their website at [www.thejma.org](http://www.thejma.org).

**Be the  
Difference.  
Save a Life  
with just  
\$1/day!  
DONATE  
TODAY!**

During this crucial time in Sri Lanka and around the world, as we face monumental challenges in providing better access to quality medical and health care for those most at-risk populations, we need YOUR HELP now more than ever. With **just \$1/day** (or \$30/month) you can help save and improve lives in Sri Lanka and elsewhere. Please consider making a donation to IMHO today. You can **donate online via PayPal as a one-time or recurring donation** (the amount & frequency of which are up to you).

You can also **donate via mail** by sending a check made out to "IMHO" to the following address:

**IMHO Treasurer  
955 Proprietors Road, Suite B  
Worthington, Ohio 43085  
U.S.A.**

All donations are tax-deductible (tax ID code #59-3779465)

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